

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00523 091016Z
ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAGR, BAGB, IZ
SUBJ: IRAQI GRAIN STORAGE

REF 77 BAGHDAD 1430 77 BAGHDAD 2112

1. THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS UNDERWAY A CRASH PROGRAM TO INCREASE GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES FROM 400,000 TONS TO 1.3 MILLION TONS DURING THE 1976-80 FIVE-YEAR-DEVELOPMENT PLAN. THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION FOR GRAINS REPORTED ON PROGRESS IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 28, 1978 IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY AL-JUMHURIYAH. ACCORDING TO THE ACTING PRESIDENT, GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY AT THE END OF 1977 HAD INCREASED TO NEARLY 500,000 TONS, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

- A. WHEAT SILOS 192,000 TONS
- B. RICE SILOS 64,000 TONS
- C. STORAGE SHEDS 230,000 TONS

PROJECTS NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION WILL ADD 340,000
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00523 091016Z

TONS OF WHEAT STORAGE CAPACITY AND 48,000 TONS OF RICE STORAGE CAPACITY. IN ADDITION, ANOTHER 48 SILO PROJECTS ARE IN VARIOUS STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR TENDERING OR FOR AWARDING OF THE CONTRACTS.

2. COMMENT: THE PLANNING MINISTRY HAS ESTIMATED THAT IRAQ NEEDS A TOTAL GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY OF TWO

MILLION TONS, ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO ONE YEAR'S CONSUMPTION, BECAUSE OF THE WIDE FLUCTUATION IN IRAQI GRAIN PRODUCTION. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION OVER THE PAST DECADE, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS VARIED FROM 2.7 MILLION TONS (1972) TO 700 THOUSAND TONS (1977). THUS, THE GOI'S PROGRAM TO INCREASE GRAIN STORAGE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE INTO THE 1981-85 FIVE YEAR PLAN EVEN IF 1980 TARGET OF 1.3 TONS CAPACITY IS MET.

3. USINT WILL REPORT SEPARATELY TRADE OPPORTUNITIES WHEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENTS ARE MADE IF DOCUMENTS CONTAIN NO BOYCOTT PROVISIONS.
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